

REMARKS

Claims 3-6, 10, 12, 14-20, 28 and 30-34 are now pending in this application. Non-elected claims 7-9 and 21-27 have been withdrawn from consideration as of the most recent Office Action and are canceled herein along with claims 1-2, 11, 13 and 29. As such, claims 3-6, 10, 12, 14-20, 28, and 30-34 are presented for consideration in this application, claims 3, 4, 10, 14, 18, 28 and 32 having been amended in this paper. Claims 3-6, 18 and 19 stand objected to, claims 10-17, 20 and 28-34 stand rejected, and reconsideration of the same is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication in the most recent Office Action that claims 3-6, 18 and 19, though objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, would be allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to as-amended claim 3 (from which claim 5 depends), as-amended claim 4 (from which claim 6 depends), and as-amended claim 18 (from which claim 19 depends), and point out that each of the same is now rewritten in independent form to include all relevant limitations. As such, having made such amendments as necessary to comply with the requirements of the above-mentioned indication of allowability, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-6, 18 and 19 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being allegedly "indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim" the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. In response, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the "In The Claims" section above, in which claim 11 was cancelled without prejudice.

Pending claims 10, 12, 14-17, 20, 28, and 30-34, which include independent claims 10, 15, 28 and 32, were rejected by

the Office Action under 35 USC § 102(e) as being allegedly "clearly anticipated" by U.S. Patent No. 6,485,248 to Taylor, Jr (hereinafter "Taylor").

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to as-amended independent claim 10, which now recites, *inter alia*, "a compression spring mounted on the base to bias the lift pin toward a storage position." Support for this limitation may be found in as-filed claim 13 which recited "... a spring mounted on the base to bias the lift pin toward a storage location"., and in FIGS. 1 and 2 in which spring 56 is shown as a compression spring. In relevant part, Taylor, which teaches the use of a torsional spring 1408 (FIG. 14) to bias the support element 312, appears to neither teach nor suggest employment of a compression spring in the manner specified in claim 10. Applicants therefore urge that Taylor fails to teach all required elements of amended claim 10, and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and subsequently withdraw the relevant anticipation rejection of the same. Applicants further urge that claims 12 and 14, being dependent on claim 10, also recite the relevant compression spring limitation mentioned above. As such, and for at least the same reason, Applicants urge that the Examiner also reconsider and withdraw the relevant anticipation rejections of claims 12 and 14.

Applicants further respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to independent claim 15, which recites, *inter alia*, "a base," "a lever pivotally mounted on the base," and "a stop ... adapted to engage the lever to pivot the lever as the base moves vertically." Applicants observe that Taylor fails to teach a lever pivotally mounted on a base. For example, Taylor apparently fails to teach pivotally mounting the cam support 922 on the platform element 314. By contrast, Taylor specifically teaches mounting the cam support 922 not on the platform element 922, but on the support element 922. Applicants further observe

that Taylor appears not to teach a stop for engaging a lever. For example, Taylor does not appear to teach a "stop" in cam members 916. By contrast the cam members 916 of Taylor appear to be designed to cooperate with a redirected but still moving cam follower 926, rather than "stop" the same. Applicants urge that the Taylor's disclosure of what appears to be rolling interaction between one or more cam members and a cam follower is inconsistent with providing a stop for engaging a lever as required in claim 15. Applicants therefore urge that Taylor fails to teach all required elements of claim 15, and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and subsequently withdraw the relevant anticipation rejection of the same. Applicants further urge that claims 16- 17 and 20, being dependent on claim 15, also recite the relevant limitations mentioned above. As such, and for at least the same reason, Applicants urge that the Examiner also reconsider and withdraw the relevant anticipation rejections of claims 16-17 and 20.

Applicants further respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to as-amended independent claim 28, which recites, *inter alia*, "a base . . .," and "a stop . . . adapted to engage a lever . . ., the lever being mounted on the base." Applicants herein repeat the above arguments relating to Taylor's failure to teach a stop and a lever, the lever being mounted to the base, and the stop being adapted to engage the lever. Applicants therefore urge that Taylor fails to teach all required elements of claim 28, and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and subsequently withdraw the relevant anticipation rejection of the same. Applicants further urge that claims 30-31, being dependent on claim 28, also recite the relevant limitations mentioned above. As such, and for at least the same reason, Applicants urge that the Examiner also reconsider and withdraw the relevant anticipation rejections of claims 30-31.

Applicants further respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to as-amended independent claim 32, which recites, *inter alia*, "a lift pin," "an actuating mechanism having an actuator configured to generate motion of the lift pin along a first axis...", and, similar to allowable claim 3, "a motion stop configured to stop movement of the lift pin along the first axis at a predetermined point...." Applicants herein repeat the above arguments relating to Taylor's failure to teach a stop and a lever, the lever being mounted to the base, and the stop being adapted to engage the lever. More broadly, Applicants further assert that Taylor apparently fails to disclose a motion stop for stopping movement of a lift pin along a first axis along which an actuator is configured to generate motion of the lift pin. For example, the cam members 916 (FIGS. 9A-B) of Taylor are not configured to stop movement of the cam followers 926 along the vertical direction of movement determined by the actuator 211. Rather, the cam members 916, having sides at a slight angle to the vertical, encourage continued movement of the cam followers 926 in the vertical direction while at the same time introducing a new (e.g., laterally-directed) motion component. For another example, the guide roller 330 (FIGS. 3A-3B) of Taylor is not configured to stop movement of the ramp segments 324 (FIGS. 4A-B) of Taylor along the vertical direction of movement determined by the actuator 230. Rather, the ramp segments 324 are inclined at an angle to the vertical, encouraging continued rolling movement of the ramp segments 324 over the biased guide roller 330 in the vertical direction while at the same time also introducing a new (e.g., laterally-directed) motion component. Applicants therefore urge that Taylor fails to teach all required elements of claim 32, and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and subsequently withdraw the relevant anticipation rejection of the same. Applicants further urge that claims 33-34, being dependent on claim 32, also recite the relevant

limitations mentioned above. As such, and for at least the same reason, Applicants urge that the Examiner also reconsider and withdraw the relevant anticipation rejections of claims 33-34.

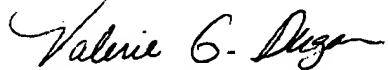
Should the Examiner be considering reciting Taylor as part of one or more rejections under 35 USC §103 to be lodged in the future against the claims of this application, Applicants respectfully assert that Taylor is not available for such a rejection, e.g., for at least for the reasons stated below:

STATEMENT CONCERNING COMMON OWNERSHIP

The claimed invention and U.S. Patent No. 6,485,248 (Taylor) were, at the time the invention of this application was made, owned by (or subject to a duty of assignment to) Applied Materials, Inc., the assignee of this application. It is noted that U.S. Patent No. 6,485,248 qualifies as prior art relative to this application, if at all, only under subsection (e) of 35 USC §102. Accordingly, pursuant to 35 USC §103(c), U.S. Patent No. 6,485,248 is disqualified from being used in a rejection under 35 USC §103 against the claims of this application. (See MPEP Sec. 706.02(1)(2)).

Applicants believe the claims are now in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the same. As three new independent claims have been added, and three previously submitted independent claims have been canceled, Applicants do not believe any fees are due regarding this Amendment. However, if any fees are required, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1696.

Respectfully Submitted,



Valerie G. Dugan, Esq.
Registration No. 36,125
Dugan & Dugan, PC
(914) 332-9081

Dated: July 11, 2003
Tarrytown, New York